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Georgia State University's International Education Fee

A First in Georgia

By Leigh Essex Walker

In fall 2003, Georgia State University introduced and implemented an international education fee dedicated to the support of international education. This innovative student fee, a first in Georgia, and one of only a few in the entire nation, represents vision and leadership on the part of our diverse student body and campus community. The fee provides a useful model for other University System of Georgia institutions seeking to implement similar fees on behalf of international education.

Georgia State University is strategically committed to internationalization. The international education fee was therefore envisioned and designed as a means to further support the international students and scholars who so profoundly enrich our university, as well as all Georgia State students who wish to enhance their education through study abroad. This support focuses on two main areas.

Revenues generated from the \$5 per semester fee are used to support international student compliance reporting requirements made necessary by the enactment of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). Through a federal mandate, all institutions hosting international students must meet stipulated recording requirements. Institutions that fail to comply will no longer be authorized to host students and scholars in most categories. Compliance with SEVIS concerning visiting faculty data requires unprecedented collaboration between International Student & Scholar Services, IS&T, Banner, and Human Resources. The international education fee helps provide the resources necessary to maintain compliance with these new stringent regulations and supports the university's strategic goal to

increase the international student population by 50 per year for the next five years.

The international education fee also supports the expansion of study abroad. While the presence of international students enriches the educational experience at Georgia State and contributes significantly to our international education goals, it is equally important that our American students also receive enrichment of their perspectives through studying and living with people and cultures in other parts of the world. The Office of International Affairs is committed to raising awareness of the importance of study abroad and advising students on the processes necessary to do so. However, the cost of study abroad remains a significant deterrent to most students at Georgia State. Therefore, the new Georgia State University International Education Fee (IEF) Study Abroad Scholarship Program, made possible by the new fee, represents a groundbreaking accomplishment. In the first year alone, the program has provided over \$80,000 in scholarships to assist our students in their endeavors to study abroad.

In compliance with the University System of Georgia Board of Regents' mandate, Georgia State University's goal is to double the number of students studying abroad by 2007. However, our ten-year goal is to see a quadrupling of the number of Georgia State students studying abroad thereby equaling or exceeding our international student population.

With the implementation of the international education fee, these goals for growth are achievable and will support our mission of internationalization and preparation of our students as enlightened global leaders and citizens.

SPRING 2004

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PROVOST

As the United States and the rest of the world struggle to navigate global challenges whose complexity and potential consequences seem to escalate daily, the increased recognition, particularly within the United States, of the importance of international education is timely. Global knowledge, derived from studying and learning the diverse languages and cultures of people the world over, holds the key to peaceful and sustainable solutions to the conflict, violence, and hatred that threaten human kind. It is gratifying to witness the strong emerging consensus on international education that spans a broad cross section of U.S. society. For many years now, especially over the last two decades, the higher education community has trumpeted the cause of international education. International education associations and their constituent institutions continue to mount aggressive initiatives to foster internationalization through supporting collaborative relationships between U.S. institutions and those in other countries, study abroad programs, student and scholarly exchanges such as the Fulbright Program and many others. These organizations work tirelessly to keep the message before the United States Congress and the American public at large that international education is effective "soft power" for use in achieving U.S. national security and foreign policy objectives.

A major outcome of these efforts is a November 2003 education abroad taskforce report of the National Association of International Educators (NAFSA). This taskforce, co-chaired by the late former Senator Paul Simon from Illinois and former Secretary of Education, William Riley recommended bold measures to increase the number of American students who study abroad each year. Senator Simon suggested that the United States government fund 500,000 scholarships (dubbed Lincoln Scholarships) annually at \$7,000 per student. Such a level of funding, amounting to \$3.5 billion or one-seventh of one percent of the annual federal budget, would bring the number of U.S. students studying abroad closer to the nearly 500,000 international students who study in American colleges and universities each year. Responding to the taskforce recom-

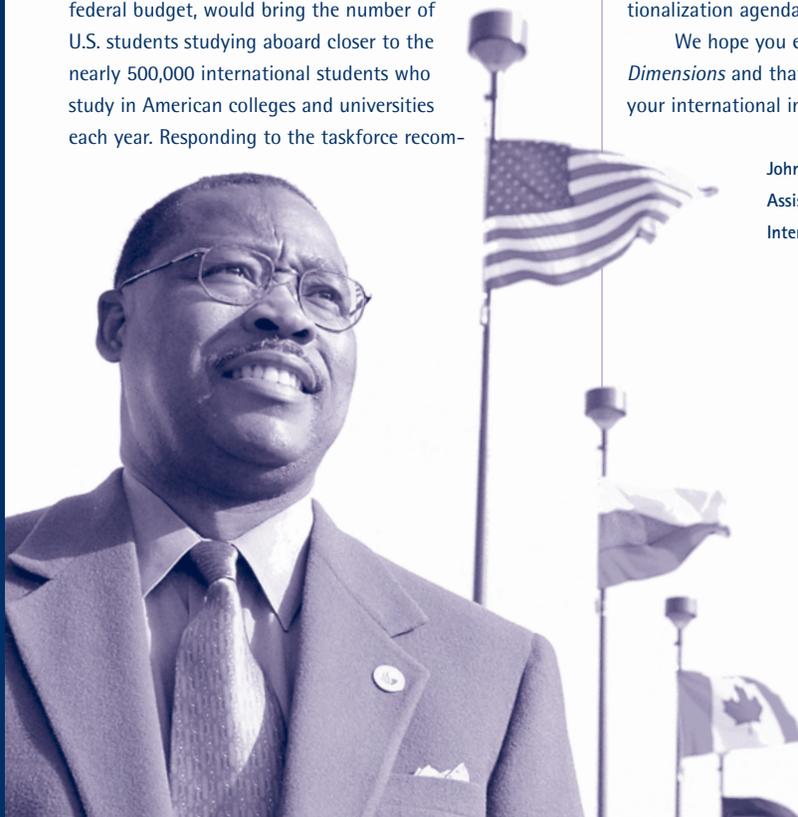
mendation to form and fund a Congressional Commission to develop actions for Congress' consideration, the Congress passed legislation to appoint such a Commission and appropriated \$500,000 to conduct its study. This unprecedented step may eventually lead to the establishment of Simon's Lincoln Scholarship Program and a dramatic increase in the number of American students studying abroad.

Our own University System of Georgia Board of Regents is counted among nationally recognized entities that have provided extraordinary leadership in fostering internationalization. From the solid commitment reflected in its 1995 Policy Directive on Internationalization, to its historic and visionary decision to approve Georgia State University's International Education Fee Proposal, the Regents have demonstrated the understanding and consistent support essential for achieving our goal of producing competent and competitive global citizens. Approval of the IEF will permit significant expansion of the number of Georgia State University students who study abroad. With this issue of *Global Dimensions*, we salute the Board of Regents for this inspired action that will have such a profound and far-reaching impact.

As always, this issue of *Global Dimensions* provides some highlights of international activities at Georgia State over the past year. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Dr. Lauren Adamson, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for kicking off the *Crossing Paths Crossing Cultures* Photo Competition and Awards Ceremony. Much of the university's success in strengthening international education is due to the leadership and support of Dean Adamson and other senior officials. Other articles in this edition, such as the piece on the Robinson College of Business' tourism project in Ghana and our exciting new undertaking to introduce a Freshman Learning Community promoting study abroad, reflect the diverse components of Georgia State's internationalization agenda.

We hope you enjoy this spring edition of *Global Dimensions* and that its contents will inspire you to step up your international involvement.

John F. Hicks
Assistant Provost for
International Affairs





DOUG'S CORNER

Recent discussions with Georgia State exchange partners in Europe and Asian post-doctoral students are reminders of how strongly U.S. national security concerns are impacting higher education.

A German exchange partner that works with Georgia State and six other U.S. universities reported that the normal pool of 40 applicants for seven positions dropped to only four applicants this past year. The German students reported that they were not interested in studying in the U.S. in the



current atmosphere where they would be treated as a potential terrorist, i.e. fingerprints and photographs at the port of entry and the SEVIS tracking system. They did choose to be exchange students, but with universities in Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Georgia State will not have a German participant in the program this next year. Related to this specific program is the fact that international graduate applications are down nationwide.

In addition to losing potential new students, those that have already been in the U.S. for a number of years are also having problems when they travel. Students who are post-doctoral researchers in the Biological Sciences have had trouble obtaining visas in a timely manner in China. Biological Sciences are part of the Visa MANTIS program that requires visa officers to refer cases to the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and the F.B.I. when their field of study is on the Technology Alert List. The delays by offices in the U.S. have been extensive. The DOS has stated publicly that the delays are not more than 30 days, but research by the federal government's own research arm demonstrated that there was no factual basis for that statement and that delays were frequently much longer. Russian, Pakistani, and Chinese students account for the largest number of delayed students.

Until the situation normalizes, Georgia State graduate departments need to be very active in communicating with exchange partners and feeder schools for their graduate programs. They need to help students understand that the delays are shortening as new systems come on line and that their own countries are facing similar issues as biometric measures, such as fingerprints and photographs, are digitally implanted into passports worldwide.

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International Students Face New Security Measures

By Heather Housley

Heightened security measures now greet prospective foreign students at the U.S. consul when they attempt to get a visa, at the airport when they arrive in the country, and on U.S. campuses in the form of the SEVIS tracking system. As a result, many students are choosing to pursue their studies in other countries such as Australia, Canada, and Great Britain. In 2003 U.S. universities saw the smallest increase in international enrollment in over a decade, .6%, following two years of 6.4% growth, and the trend seems to be getting worse. A study by the Council of Graduate Schools recently found that foreign applications to research universities were down dramatically this year, a downturn mirrored at Georgia State as well. One of our colleges has reported that international applications for Fall 2004 are down 70% from one year ago. In contrast, Australia reported a growth of 11% in its international students from 2002 to 2003.

Prospective students cite the many new security measures as the reason they are taking their money and minds elsewhere. First, visa applicants must wait as long as twelve weeks for a mandatory interview, and then may have to wait many months for their visa to be processed. One reason for the exceptional

delays is a program called MANTIS, which demands special scrutiny for applicants whose area of study falls into one of the scientific fields listed on the Technology Alert List (<http://foia.state.gov/masterdocs/09fam/0940031X1.pdf>). Researchers in biology, physics, and related areas are most often targeted for these lengthy background checks, which can occur both prior to first coming into the United States, or when a continuing student requests a visa renewal on a trip back home. Chinese, Pakistani, and Russian students and scholars are most often singled out for this review.

The United States must clearly implement policies that protect its citizens from terrorist attacks. However, a balanced approach must be sought which does not harm one of our most effective tools against terrorism: the education of future world leaders. As Marlene Johnson, Executive Director of NAFSA, Association of International Educators, says, "America's influence in the world stems significantly from our role as an academic destination for the world's most talented students. From China to Georgia, U.S.-educated leaders approach world affairs with an understanding of, and often affection for, the America they came to know as college students."

Georgia State's Ghana Project at the Center of Tourism Development

By Earl Picard

In a recent speech before Ghana's hoteliers, the Minister of Tourism, Jake Obetsebi-Lamprey, proclaimed his government's commitment to increase earnings from tourism by doubling the rate of growth beyond the current 10% to produce a million visitors by 2007. He announced that tourism is now a higher priority than agriculture and that the future of Ghanaian tourism is tied to chartered flights and the presence of large, respectable hotels in key tourism areas.

The minister acknowledged that the tourism development goals of this West African nation are ambitious since, in general, standards in the hospitality industry are low and declining. He identified poor service, inadequate training, the absence of employee licensing standards, and a shortage of hospitality training institutions as major problems. Obetsebi-Lamprey said for the country's tourism industry not to be "stillborn," the sector must "wed" professionalism with Ghana's proverbial hospitality.

Help, as they say, is on the way! Georgia State University is aggressively helping Ghana address those problems through the Ghana Tourism Capacity Development Initiative (TCDI) Project. TCDI, a \$3.8 million project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is being implemented by the Robinson College of Business with assistance from the Office of International Affairs. After one year of operation, the TCDI project is addressing head-on the absence of industry grades and standards and spotty inspection through its work with the Ministry of Tourism, Parliament, and the private sector. Together they have identified best practices and quality standards and are in the process of drafting laws and regulations that can be implemented and successfully enforced. With the help of the TCDI Project, hotels in Ghana should be subject to a standardized system of classification shared throughout the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) by 2006. That development should go a long way to address the Minister's concern that service be improved in the accommodation sector.

The TCDI project also is working with a variety of training providers to prepare trainers and develop courses and materials that can be used to reach a significant number of the 200,000 hospitality professionals that the Minister would like to see trained in the next four years. To enhance the nation's institutional capacity to train the trainers of tourism sector workers, four fellows from the University of Cape Coast are currently enrolled in the Robinson College's department of Hospitality Administration and will receive Certified Hospitality Educator credentials. Georgia State faculty members are completing marketing research, including focus group sessions among African Americans, to help Ghana communicate more effectively with one of its target markets. TCDI is also helping Ghana to better prepare for trade shows, develop international and domestic marketing plans, and develop domestic tourism sites.

When Ghana achieves its goal of one million visitors and tourism begins to realize its extraordinary potential to contribute to the country's growth and development, Georgia State can take pride in its contribution to this important accomplishment.

Right: Minister Obetsebi-Lamprey speaking at the opening of the TCDI Project Office in Accra, Ghana. Ambassador Hicks and USAID/Ghana Mission Director Sharon Cromer looking on from the left.



Below: Georgia State students studying abroad on the Management Program to Germany.



New Freshman Learning Community Focuses on Internationalizing Education

By Misty Holm

Beginning this fall, Georgia State University freshmen will have the opportunity to take part in a new Freshman Learning Community (FLC), entitled *Global Ambassadors: Internationalizing Your Education*. Initiated in 1999, the FLC program seeks to connect incoming freshman with each other, as well as to the Georgia State University campus and community, by offering clusters of courses chosen around a particular theme. Students choose an FLC based on a theme of interest to them. Past FLC themes include Environmental Health, Exploring Diversity, Emerging Leaders, Law and Society, and Business and Technology.

While past FLC's have focused on international themes, *Global Ambassadors* will be the first FLC to strongly emphasize the importance of study abroad. The FLC's main focus is to offer students the opportunity to investigate global aspects of their professional and personal development. Designed to engage students in a comprehensive international dialogue, the program is open to students in any field of study. The courses offered in this cluster include: English 1101, Political Science 2401 (Global Issues), Speech 1000 (Human Communication), a foreign language of choice, and GSU 1010—a course that serves as a forum for broadly introducing students to the Georgia State University community.

According to Dr. Nannette Commander, Director of Freshman Studies, "*Global Ambassadors* will be a great addition to the Freshman Learning Communities. We are very excited about introducing the importance of Study Abroad to Georgia State University freshman so that they can have a head start and successfully integrate it into their academic work."

For more information about the program, contact the *Global Ambassadors* advisors, Misty Holm and Kike Ehigior, Study Abroad Advisors in the Office of International Affairs.



Reflections on South Africa Overcoming Adversity

By Kijua Sanders-McMurtrey

As a doctoral student in the College of Education, I traveled to South Africa to study abroad with a group of students from the Department of Educational Policy Studies led by Dr. Marybeth Gasman. During our stay, we saw the influence that the country's former apartheid system had on the socio-economic status of many South Africans. The stratification that existed as part of apartheid was evident in the educational system. Post-apartheid policies implemented by the government specifically focus on increasing access to education for all groups of people in the new South Africa.

When I took pictures of young children in Soweto who were begging for Rand (South African money), I felt more emotional about the bridge that these educators were trying to build for those who had historically been disadvantaged in their country. I realized how valuable my pursuit of the doctorate has been to my development. It led me to South Africa where I saw the global implications of inequality and poverty.

I overcame my fear of flying internationally for 18 hours by thinking of my family members that would never make the trip. My father was an anti-apartheid activist who supported Nelson and Winnie Mandela. He died in 1988 before Mandela was released and apartheid was abolished. I visited the former Mandela home as a tribute to my mother and father, who were active in the movement for civil rights. I will forever remember the lessons that I learned about forgiveness, grace, humility, and reconciliation in a country trying to overcome years of contention, strife, and violence among the cultural groups. Their efforts to increase access and diversity within their institutions should serve to remind us of our goals early on during the integration process here in the U.S. as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education this year.

CROSSING PATHS, CROSSING CULTURES

In celebration of International Education Week (November 17–21, 2003), the Office of International Affairs, Study Abroad Programs proudly sponsored the grand opening of the 4th Annual Crossing Paths, Crossing Cultures International Photo Exhibit. The event kicked off with an energizing performance by Soweto Street Beat, a South African Dance Group. Befitting the occasion, this year's featured speaker was Lauren Adamson, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. A critical voice in the approval process of the new International Education Fee at Georgia State University, a fee that provides study abroad scholarships among other initiatives, Dean Adamson shared a message of inspiration and encouragement for the university's continued pursuit of international excellence. Underscoring her support for both study abroad and international students in the spirit of the photo competition, Dean Adamson commented, "When you celebrate a picture for providing a compelling image of an experience, you are also implicitly praising the context that allowed it to be produced." The Scholarship and Photo Awards Ceremony was followed by the unveiling of the exhibit and a reception.

The exhibit will be on display in the lobby of the Student Center in early April as part of the university's International Spring Festival. It will then move to the College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Modern and Classical Languages for the remainder of the semester. The exhibit can also be viewed on line at: www.gsu.edu/~wwwwoia/



The Incredible Attractiveness of Ephesus

Liza Suarez, International Student
Places category – Turkey

I have always heard so much about Ephesus from books such as the Bible or from history lessons, but I never thought that I was going to be able to see a city that is more than 2000 years old. My dreams became true last summer when I went to Ephesus in Turkey; I saw an incredible city, which despite the ruins can still be appreciated for its architecture. This theater is an example of the architecture and beauty of the city. I felt transported back in time and I could easily imagine myself to be a part of Ephesus.



Gulf Sunset

Weimin Lin, International Student
Places category – Boca Grande, Florida

The sun is going down framed by the trees
Crossing the bridge accompanied by the waves
That moment of silences the bustling beach
The blush of sunset hues the sky and breeze
Now the whole world seems from trouble free
Nor sorrow nor death on the urmuring sea
A dream of happiness can be easily spun
In the colorful beams of the peaceful sun.



The Fisherman

Maria Bermudez, Study Abroad Student
Details of Life category – Cinque Terre, Italy

For the first time on a trip to Cinque-Terre, I craved a moment of solitude, away from all the excitement. As I turned to the ocean, I saw a man standing on the edge of a rock by himself with the company of his fishing pole. The image of him against the ocean gave me the moment of peace I was craving for.

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WHAT'S AHEAD

May 23-28, 2004	NAFSA: Association of International Educators National Conference, Baltimore, Maryland
July 10-14, 2004	NASULGC (National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges) – Commission on International Programs – National Conference, Costa Mesa, California
September 1, 2004	IIE Fulbright and NSEP Student and Advisor Workshops, Georgia State University
October 5, 2004	9th Annual Study Abroad Fair, Georgia State University
November 15-19, 2004	International Education Week
November 18, 2004	5th Annual Crossing Paths, Crossing Cultures International Photo Competition Award Ceremony, Georgia State University

How far will your education take you?



LET'S STUDY ABROAD

If you are a Georgia State University student and have not yet studied abroad, today is the day to begin planning your journey! Where do you start? Attend a Study Abroad Programs Globe Trekker Seminar, an informal information session designed to provide the basic tools for your exploration. Knowledgeable advisors will assist you every step of the way.

You may be surprised to learn that financial aid, including HOPE, applies toward study abroad. And now the exciting new IEF Scholarship is available to you. It's not necessary to know the language of a country to study abroad there. If you cannot afford to be out of the country for a term, Georgia State offers two to three week Maymester programs. No matter what your discipline, or even if you have not yet selected a major, the options are endless and we can help you find a program suited to your needs and goals.

Explore the life changing possibilities available to you through Georgia State University. Study abroad, and see how far your education will take you!

Leigh Essex Walker
Director, Study Abroad Programs
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Georgia State University Study Abroad Programs 2003-2004

Argentina & Brazil: Management in Different World Regions, The Case in South America, Summer

Dr. David Bruce (404) 463-9415 and
Dr. Pedro Carrillo (404) 463-9416

🌐 **Arts and Architecture of Ancient Egypt: The Age of the Pharaohs, Summer**
Dr. Melissa Hartwig (404) 651-0587

🌐 **Child Welfare in England, (Non-credit bearing program), Spring**
Dr. Peter Lyons (404) 651-1863

Cuba Today, Summer
Dr. Sheldon Schiffer (404) 651-0467

Economic Studies in South Africa, Maymester
Dr. Glenwood Ross (404) 681-2800 and
Ms. Caroline Griffin (404) 651-4792

🌐 **European Hospitality and Tourism Experience, Maymester**
Dr. Marcia Taylor (404) 651-4253 and
Dr. Debby Cannon (404) 651-3672

European Study Abroad in Germany, Maymester
Dr. Marta Szabo-White (404) 651-2895 and
Dr. Charles A. Burden

Executive MBA Class of 2004 trip to Europe, Fall
Mr. William Woolery (404) 651-3763
Ms. Laurie Poppell (404) 651-1709

Executive MBA Class of 2005 trip to Asia, Maymester
Mr. William Woolery (404) 651-3763

🌐 **Field Studies in Carbonate Geology in the Bahamas, Winter Break**
Dr. Beth Christensen (404) 651-1376

Financial and Managerial Issues in France and the EU, Maymester
Dr. Karen D. Loch (404) 651-4057

International Student Teaching in China, Spring
Dr. John K. Lee (404) 651-0201

Landscapes of Memory: History, Cultures, and Historic Preservation in Egypt, Summer

Richard Laub (404) 463-9206 and
Donald Reid (404) 463-9208

Management and Marketing in the EU (Toulouse, France), Maymester
Dr. Karen D. Loch (404) 651-4057

🌐 **Nkonselkonson: Ghana Study Abroad program (West African and African American Studies), Summer**
Dr. Arletha D. Livingston (404) 651-2157

SCUBA, Snorkel, and Sail the Bahamas (Non-credit bearing program), Summer
Melissa Buchheit (404) 463-1556

Spanish Studies in Guadalajara, Mexico, Summer
Dr. Hector D. Fernandez L'Hoeste
(404) 651-2265

Spanish Studies in Madrid, Spain, Summer
Dr. Jose Montero (404) 651-2265

Summer Academy in International Arbitration in Eastern Europe (SAIICA), Summer
Dr. E.R. Lanier (404) 651-2085

Transition Economies in South Africa, Summer
Dr. Marta Szabo-White (404) 651-2895 and
Dr. Tad D. Ransopher (404) 651-4467

Joint Studies Program in British and American Cultures, Academic year
Dr. Tanya Caldwell (404) 651-2900

European Teachers Exchange Network, Fall and Spring
Dr. Peggy Gallagher (404) 651-0110

🌐 **Music in Russia, Summer**
Dr. Alan Raines, (404) 651-1732

International Cooperative Education Program (Internship), Summer and Fall
Dr. Gregory Streib (404) 651-4448
Mr. Michael Daniels (404) 651-1500